

THE  
REMARKABLE  
VISION  
OF  
NATHAN COLLVER,

RELATING

His Visit to the regions of Light, and to the regions  
of Darkness, together with his Com-  
ments thereon.

COBOURG:

RE-PRINTED AT THE C. C. ADVOCATE OFFICE.

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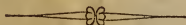
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A VERY remarkable circumstance happened me, NATHAN COLLVER—but before I proceed to my account I must tell you the circumstance my mind was in a while before the uncommon VISION came upon me.

I was rather inclining to believe that there was neither Heaven nor Hell, and grew so hardened in my heart as to hate the Holy Bible, and was in strong temptation to cast away all thoughts of any good, and gave myself up to all evil, and concluded that I should die like a beast; but still a fear came upon me, which for some time put me in great trouble, but which I kept secret near two years; but I may say I was on the brink of ruin. But, oh! the wonderful love of God, who saw me in that dangerous state, and as my case was singular, so the Wonderful dealt in a singular manner with me, to convince me of my folly. One evening as the people were asleep, I was risen up in my bed and making my prayer to God, that if there was Heaven and Hell, I might know it, I felt a blow, which struck me on the breast and laid me backwards in the bed; and the same instant I saw a man in the room with a bright circle shining round about him, and it appeared to me to be brighter than the sun shining in his strength; and he spoke to me; and said he knew all my vain thoughts, without my telling them to him, and bid me follow him and fear not; and instantly, as I imagined, my spirit left my body, and followed my guide, who conveyed me beyond the sun, moon, and starry re-

gions, and as my guide passed by the sun and moon, he said he made the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; and then I was instantly led to a most glorious city, which shone with such brightness it dazzled my eyes to behold it, then I was brought to the bar of God's awful justice, and Christ, who was my guide, spake and said, "I take my seat at God's right hand of Power," and took a trumpet and blew, which I thought made Heaven and earth tremble—and I was called on by the Judge as a criminal to answer for my crimes; and it appeared to me that the Judge opened a very large Book before me, which contained the names of the righteous and wicked—the names of the righteous were on the right hand, and the names of the wicked on the left. The names of the righteous were some very bright, and some seemed to be dull—and the names of the wicked were all black. The Judge then pointing to my name, which was on the left, bid me look and see it, which was very black; and I saw also, that all my sins were recorded in that book, and among many others one was that I had been at a wicked frolick. And I heard the Judge pronounce his glorious name, which was JEHOVAH, and his name made Heaven rejoice and Hell tremble. And it was said to me by the Judge, that, if ever I made game of that name, I never should have a right in Heaven, and the gate would be forever shut against such.

It appeared to me that the Judge all this time held a very great sword over my head: but oh! the terror that filled my soul, none can tell, unless they were in my soul's stead—indeed I stood trembling like a criminal, with fearful expectation to hear my eternal doom, but in the midst of my fears, contrary to my expectation, Jesus Christ arose from his seat, came and kneeled between me and the bar of God, and placed his own head under the sword, which was held over mine; and like a mediator, he plead my cause in a most moving and affecting manner, and said, "Oh! Father, I have died to save this sinner and now oh! Father, spare this sinner, oh! thou Father I stand between the sinner and



the stroke of thy wrath, oh! thou Father why should he perish."

At these words of his, the Judge was silent and seemed to be well pleased, with what Christ had said in my behalf, and then the Judge withdrew the sword, which was held over my head and turned it behind him. Then Christ arose from off his knees and turning to me with a smiling face, he said, your sins shall be blotted out and your transgressions will I remember no more against you. Then holding his hand towards me, he bid me look and see the nail holes in his hands: this said he I have borne for thee, at these words all the Heavenly Host sung for joy: Christ spake and said, I was as welcome as any to all the joys and pleasures of the new Jerusalem, and I could not forbear to sing with them: and I may say there was joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth. He then said to me, that I might ask any question for light's sake, and it should be answered; I then asked the meaning of some words he spake in his prayer, and he said the words he spake were Greek, and when on earth he often spake Greek, and the meaning of what he said was oh! thou Father, spare this sinner! But, he said he understood all Languages that was spoken on earth, and because I had scrupled the truth of the Holy Bible, he spake much to me of it, and told me it was wicked that man should add or diminish to or from that book, he never should come to that glorious place, and I also heard the great Judge pronounce the whole of the last chapter in the Bible; then Christ said to me that I must go back to the world again; and then gave me a great charge to my father and the family, that they should live a praying life to God, and cut off every right hand sin and pluck out every right eye sin or they never should come to that glorious place.

Christ then gave me a special charge to Stephen Kent, my sister's husband, and then took a trumpet in his hand and said he should blow that trumpet in a short time for Stephen Kent, and then he would come to him in a quick time, and as I left that glorious place, he renewed the charge

to Stephen Kent, to make speedy preparation for death, for that his time was short on earth. The people sung something in form as Christian Churches sing on earth, that is Christ did seem to lead their song. I saw there Men, Women and Children, and heard them sing sometimes together and sometimes by themselves, and at other times could hear a company a far off to my right hand seem to sing together, another company far to my left hand sing a song together; then again would hear the whole Heavenly world sing together.

I cannot remember to repeat much of the words they sang; but, it seemed to me they sang about those ancient wonders Christ done amongst the Jews when on earth; and then what God had done since Christ came for Christians; but when they were singing, I often heard the words Moses and the Lamb. And I heard the little children sing a verse in the gospel sonnets which was as follows:—

Babes thither caught from wombs and breast,  
Claimed right to sing above the rest,  
Because they found the happy shore,  
They never knew nor sought before.

And while they were singing a man came by me and spake to me, and said, although I did not so well understand their singing now, yet when I came there to stay, would then be able to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, as well as any of them. Their songs were melodious beyond words of mortals to set forth, and gave the highest praise to Jesus Christ, and it seemed to me that Jesus and Salvation was the close of all their songs, and there appeared to be the greatest love and harmony among them; all seemed to prefer each other above themselves, and all seemed to strive who should give the lowest bow to Jesus Christ.

Again Christ said to me he had suffered greatly for me, and that I must be patient and endure the afflictions he had seen fit to lay upon me; and that I must live a life of prayer and supplication to God. I then answered him, that I was so vile a sinner, that it would be blasphemy for me to take his holy name in my wicked mouth, and he answered me



not in prayer, and thus said if any one spake his name in a wicked way it was blasphemy—but, any poor sinner might speak his name in prayer. Then Christ took me by the right hand and walked some distance among the glorious multitude of heavenly hosts, all which showed him the greatest reverence, for as he came towards them they all ceased from their music, arose and bowed their heads to him and gave glory to God, that another sinner was allowed to come there, they glorified God, that Christ had brought them there; they also, give glory to him for all the heavenly blessings bestowed on them. When Christ came to the end of his walk, he then let go my hand and pointing to a man who was farther off sitting on a seat; he said there was the man who made the Psalms, I asked if it was King David and he answered yea, and he also showed me another man near the king, who he said was Nathan the prophet and said he was of my name, and when I came there to stay I should sing with him. He then walked back to the Judgement Bar and I followed him, and he then asked me if I was now satisfied there was a Heaven, and I said I was. The Judge then spoke and said he now must know there is a HELL; Christ then put forth his hand and bid me stand on it, and I did so—he then carried me down to the *dark regions of the DAMNED CREW*, and no sooner than did Christ make his appearance in the dark regions, all hell was in an uproar with cries and screeches which instantly broke out into blasphemies with curses and rages against Christ, and accusing him of the blame of their being LOST, and said he might have saved them as well as others, and Jesus Christ took no notice of their malice; he asked me if ever I had read of the rich man who lifted up his eyes in hell. And I said I had. He pointed to a man and said there he was, (he appeared to be very spiteful at Christ) and said he had not had that drop of water yet. I heard him cry out and lament, and saw many others that I had seen in this world and spake with two of them, one of them whose death I did not hear of as I recollect, told me he was drowned—but the names I keep secret.

I saw that old serpent the DEVIL, he appeared to be something in human shape, but large in size and very black, he appeared very spiteful at Christ, and to appearance he had a chain about his neck, which so bound him down that he could not rise up before Christ—but laid and groaned and gnashed in the greatest misery and torment. I then asked Christ why those sinners of the human kind, might not have been saved, and Christ said they had a chance once to have been saved, but they neglected it, and their chance was now gone and the fault was their own, for they took their good things in the world and despised him and set at naught all his council and now they suffered justly for their sins, at these words of his I heard the damned crew, cry out in the most awful and surprising manner, they cursed the day that ever they were born.

Indeed as there is nothing on earth that can fully set forth the glories of Heaven, so there is nothing that can set forth the dreadful horrors and terrors of the BURNING GULF. It is a place of torment indeed, I heard the wretched creatures make screeches, horrible cries and lamentations, it is beyond the power of mortal tongue to express. And I also heard them say there was never to be an end to their torment and that they never expected any rest when thousands of years were past, it was still a beginning.

I saw no material fire in that place, yet conceive the torment of the wicked there is much greater than that of fire and brimstone burning about them, for it appeared to me the wrath of God and a guilty conscience was greater torment than tongue could express, I saw also that the wicked were in great terror about the day of Judgement, they said that they expected an addition to their torment, on that day. When I was in that place I looked to see if there were any infants, but could see none; I then asked Christ if there were any infants in hell, and he asked me why I asked that question, did you not see the children in Heaven? I said because I had heard that some believed there were little infants in hell. Then Christ shook his head and said nay, there were no babes in hell, and bid me read his Bible where

he had said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Then Christ asked me if I was now satisfied there was a hell, and I said I was. He then put forth his hand and I seemed to sit on it, and he brought me safe to my home—and I saw him no more.

[Signed,]

NATHAN COLLVER.

*Upper Canada.*

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## COMMENTS, &c.

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As I have given but a very short account of what happened to me while in that visionary way, I think it not amiss to relate something more of what I did hear and see. What acceptance this may meet with, is none of my business—nor do I think it is, because I am better than others that I should have such a discovery; but it is the sovereign dealings of God, who makes known his grace to sinners in different ways. I hope it is far from me to impose on people by telling that which is false, and this I know I have the witness of what I say to be true in my own conscience; and consider the importance of it that I must be accountable to my Judge.

When I was in that Vision, I saw faces of people in Heaven, resemble their faces when on earth, so that they could be known by their faces, but as they were changed from mortal to immortality—it may well be considered it made a great alteration with them; every thing appeared to shine in glory there, even the streets of that glorious place shone like the purest glass. I have not language to set forth that wonderful glory I saw every where while in Heaven; but especially the glory of the throne, and the awful and glorious

Judge. With great propriety I may say, when I stood before my Judge, he appeared so awful and glorious, it struck me with such terror and surprise, I could not endure the glory of his face nor the terror of his words; but oh! the majesty of his countenance, and thunder of his words, it would have banished me from that glorious place in a moment, were it not that Jesus Christ came timely to my relief and stepped between me and the Judge and spake a word in my behalf.

I may well say, God is a spirit infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. But as it is impossible for mortal tongue to set forth the glory of the Judge, so likewise it is impossible to set forth the glory of the son of God, but we may say, he is the chief among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely and he is the sinner's friend. Our Saviour appeared to have a large circle shining bright, something in form of a rainbow, which reached round his body over his arms, shoulders and breast, and appeared to me to be a peculiar ornament of glory, honour and beauty, that no one else was honoured with, and the first moment I saw him, when he summoned me away, he appeared with this circle and wore it both in Heaven and Hell until he left me; he was the greatest beauty that ever was seen, he was clothed in a garment which hung loose round him and shone with a brightness beyond the sun, he was of a middling stature, his hair was of a brownish colour, and a middling length, and the four part turned back. I may say all the features of beauty and glory, both human and divine, were comprehended in him; when I saw his beauty and heard him pray the Father for me, it so affected me that if my heart had been made of steel it would have bled, and we may truly say, God in the person of his Son, has all his glorious works out done; it is my thoughts that neither angels nor men will ever be able to fully set forth the beauty and glory of his Divinity and Humanity; for I saw that he was the glory of Heaven and the dread of Hell. In Heaven I observed that as they sung his praise, when they mentioned

the name of Jesus they all bowed their heads to him and when he conveyed me to the dark regions, I saw that all hell was in an uproar with fright and horror and their cry was art thou come to torment us more.

I saw several persons in Heaven, whom I knew—that is Simon Dunn, and his mother, Barnabas Swayze, Jonathan Hopkins, and my wife's mother. As Christ led me on that heavenly ground he asked if I had not lost a child on earth and I said I had; he then pointed to a small child and said there it is, and I heard it sing. It appeared to me that the smallest infant I saw there, was sensible enough to praise God for his redeeming love.

Of all the human race there is none more obligated to the Lord Jesus Christ than sinful me, for that he should distinguish me, while in such an infidel state and give me such a vision of heaven and hell, to convince me of the certainty of a state both of happiness and misery hereafter, that I might flee from the wrath to come and lay hold on eternal life, and had I ten thousand souls I would give them all to Jesus Christ; and think I may say as the poet said:—

“ Were I possessed of the earth,  
And the more boundless sea,  
For one blessed hour at Christ's right hand  
I would give them both away.”

I verily believe for any one to dispise the Holy Bible and disbelieve there is a Heaven and Hell, are sins of the most scarlet dye, and when I stood at the bar, the Judge said, “for as much as I was guilty of disbelieving those truths I was one of the greatest sinners according to my light that ever stood before him.”

When I consider what glorious preparation Christ is making in Heaven for his Church; it makes me long to have them live all their time here on earth in the love of God, for Jesus Christ will not suffer laborers in the love of God to be lost and forgotten without a Heavenly reward, and if the wicked knew what treasures of wrath and vengeance God's justice has stored for sinners against the day of wrath



it would make them tremble while they were sporting themselves in sin.

I heard those wretched creatures in hell lament that they had lost their chance of Salvation and if they had the chance again a thousand worlds should not take it from them, but said they never expected to have the chance again, I heard them say the words never, never, never, it was that killed them and yet they could not die, and then cried out they expected an addition to their torment on the Day of Judgement. I beheld such glories and such pleasure at God's right hand, if it had been God's will for me to stay there, the whole universe would have been no temptation to me to leave that glorious place; I have not words to set forth what I saw for ten thousand beauties, glories and wonders all met together and shone in the face of him that sitteth upon the Throne, it is that glory and beauty in him that fills all the Heavenly world and we may truly say, eye hath not seen nor ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive of those joys the Father has prepared for those that love his Son.

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### Jabez Collier's Account.

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The foregoing account is what I his father, JABEZ COLLIER, have taken from his own mouth, and I have written it as nearly in his own words as I could to give the sense of reading; as he has informed me of some things, of what he saw while in his vision, which were not written at first, and as I have not confined myself exactly to the first copy in every word, it is likely some words may differ, yet the sense and meaning is the same, nor was it by any means expected when this was first written, it would ever come to public view; all I thought of was to keep it in remembrance among ourselves: But since it is come abroad, I here declare there has been nothing written to impose upon the reader, and when I consider the thing over, it appears to me



that God has assuredly done something for him, that has made a great alteration in him, for as he has declared himself, he always appeared to be a great enemy to all the duties of religion and to reading the Bible, but since this experience he is greatly altered in his practices. As he is now dead, I may speak it, he was often reading God's word and kept constant prayer in his little family the rest of the time which he lived, which was not two years. He was naturally something rough in his temper, but after this experience he was manifestly altered, and to do justice to his memory I must say, he was a peace maker in my family, and appeared to be much concerned for the souls of people.

The message he had for STEPHEN KENT, was heavy on his mind, until he delivered it to him, who was drowned in about two months afterwards; he told me it was made known to him, his time was short on earth, and that he had a greater charge to live a christian life.

A little before his death, I asked him what he thought then of his vision, and he told me what he had said before, and what was written about it was all true, and he was not afraid to die in the witness of it.

I lived on earth in sore distress,  
Great trouble and disease;  
But now like Lazarus I rest,  
Where Christ my Saviour is.

Published at the desire of a pious person, who with many others, can bear record to its truth.

Sinners draw near and learn to fear,  
The anger of your God,  
Haste, shun your fate ere 'tis too late,  
And quit the path you trod.

If void of grace in sinful race,  
Through life you still have hurried,  
To-morrow's sun may see it run,  
And you in ruin buried.

Verily verily I say unto ye, unless ye repent ye cannot be saved.

**NATHAN COLLVER'S**  
**CALL TO POOR SINNERS,**  
**And a short account in Verse of his Extraordinary**  
**VISION.**

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With hardened heart and wicked mind,  
A sinful life long had I led ;  
And still I thought the human kind,  
No more than brutes when they were dead.

I believed no Heaven, nor yet a Hell,  
I thought that all was chance and fate ;  
But oh ! what wondrous things befel,  
To snatch me from this woful state.

As on my bed I musing laid,  
And sleep a stranger to my eyes ;  
I to the great JEHOVAH pray'd,  
To know what man was when he dies.

Some hand unseen then dealt a blow,  
A wondrous light shone round the room ;  
A voice I heard that bid me go,  
And witness wicked sinners' doom.

Straightway my spirit wing'd its flight,  
And with the radiant form I flew,  
Beyond the sun and starry height,  
What wonders then appeared in view.

The mighty JUDGE upon his THRONE,  
Opened the book of fate's record ;  
What matchless glory round him shone,  
Who waved the flaming judgement sword.

He bid me look on the left hand,  
Where my own sinful name I saw,  
Enroll'd amongst the wicked band,  
Who daily break his Holy Law.

But Jesus low, on bended knee,  
Forgiveness for my sins implored ;  
At which the Judge seemed pleased to see,  
And laid aside the flaming sword.

Then Jesus, with a smiling face,  
 Said, "All your sins are now forgiven ;"  
 My welcome to that glorious place,  
 Was sung by all the hosts of Heaven.

Christ bid me ask for light's true sake,  
 All that my soul might yet desire ;  
 I ask'd what language 'twas he spake,  
 When he address'd the Judge in prayer.

He answered, that he spake in Greek,  
 As he on earth was wont to do ;  
 But he all tongues alike could speak,  
 And that the Scriptures were all true.

He said that I should then prepare,  
 To visit earth and friends below ;  
 And bid them lead a life of prayer,  
 And shun the everlasting wo.

The charge he gave to Stephen Kent,  
 The charge he bid myself to bear ;  
 Saying he quickly must repent,  
 And for a speedy death prepare.

Heaven's host their songs of praise then sung,  
 In form as Christian Churches sing ;  
 This praise was heard from every tongue,  
 Moses, the Lamb, and Zion's King.

Babes thither caught from wombs and breast,  
 In scenes they never knew before ;  
 Claim'd right to sing above the rest,  
 Now landed on the happy shore.

Their melody was fame above,  
 What'er was heard from mortal tongue ;  
 And midst their harmony and love,  
 Salvation ended every song.

Still sung the choir in sounds aloud,  
 Till Christ among the Hosts did go ;  
 Then every head to him was bow'd,  
 In silent praise and reverence low.

Seated I saw Israel's great king,  
 The prophet, Nathan, also near ;  
 With him he said that I should sing,  
 Because one name we both did bear.

He showed me next the dread abyss,  
 Where souls condemn'd are doom'd to dwell;  
 But oh! what uproar fill'd the place,  
 No heart can think, no tongue can tell.

Screeches and cries, and horrid groans,  
 And gnashing teeth and flaming eyes;  
 Curses and screams and dismal moans,  
 Fury and rage and blasphemies.

Old LUCIFER lock'd in a chain,  
 Black, large, and dreadful to the sight;  
 Groaning with never ending pain,  
 In horror, torment, hate and spite.

All this I saw, what else befel,  
 The Judge my lips in silence seal'd;  
 I will not, cannot, dare not tell,  
 What else besides he there reveal'd.

Each right hand sin I have cut off,  
 Each right eye sin has lost its place;  
 Tho' fools may sneer and sinners scoff,  
 I soon shall see my Saviour's face.

With Scripture truth these things I write,  
 Their truth I soon must prove in death;  
 What there I saw I now indite,  
 And soon will seal with my last breath.

O sinners from this true record,  
 A holy, timely, warning take;  
 Prepare to meet the Mighty Lord,  
 And shun the Dismal Burning Lake.

Come for the Holy Jesus' sake,  
 And shun the Dismal Burning Lake;  
 Where the dread fire torrent rolls,  
 O'erwhelming poor lost sinners' souls.

The gulphs of fire and waves of flame,  
 Make my soul shudder at the name;  
 But oh! the sight who can reveal,  
 Silence my lips or break the seal.

Come join the choir and loudly sing,  
 Hosannahs to Mount Zion's King;  
 To me he has mercy shone,  
 And all the glories of his Throne.



